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Consumer Price Index, Anchorage area – June 2020

Area prices were up 1.0 percent over the past two months, down 3.8 percent from a year ago

Prices in the Anchorage area, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), advanced 1.0 percent for the two months ending in June 2020, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. Assistant Commissioner for Regional Operations Richard Holden noted that the June increase was influenced by higher prices for gasoline. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, bi-monthly changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U decreased 3.8 percent. The index for all items less food and energy declined 4.3 percent over the year. Energy prices dropped 16.6 percent, largely the result of a decrease in the price of gasoline. Food prices rose 6.3 percent. (See [table 1.](#))

Food

Food prices increased 2.3 percent for the two months ending in June. (See [table 1.](#)) Prices for food at home advanced 2.9 percent, and prices for food away from home rose 1.3 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices rose 6.3 percent. Prices for food at home increased 8.4 percent since a year ago, and prices for food away from home moved up 2.7 percent.

Energy

The energy index advanced 7.6 percent for the two months ending in June. The increase was mainly due to higher prices for gasoline (20.0 percent). Prices for electricity and natural gas service were both unchanged for the same period.

Energy prices dropped 16.6 percent over the year, largely due to lower prices for gasoline (-26.1 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 5.3 percent, but prices for electricity fell 14.7 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy increased 0.3 percent in the latest two-month period. Higher prices for medical care (3.8 percent) and apparel (1.2 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for recreation (-1.4 percent) and household furnishings and operations (-0.9 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy declined 4.3 percent. Components contributing to the decrease included shelter (-8.4 percent) and apparel (-7.7 percent). Partly offsetting the decreases were price increases in medical care (5.9 percent) and household furnishings and operations (3.1 percent).

The August 2020 Consumer Price Index for the Anchorage area is scheduled to be released on September 11, 2020.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic Impact on June 2020 Consumer Price Index Data

Data collection by personal visit for the Consumer Price Index (CPI) program has been suspended since March 16, 2020. When possible, data normally collected by personal visit were collected either online or by phone. Additionally, data collection in June was affected by the temporary closing or limited operations of certain types of establishments. These factors resulted in an increase in the number of prices considered temporarily unavailable and imputed.

While the CPI program attempted to collect as much data as possible, many indexes are based on smaller amounts of collected prices than usual, and a small number of indexes that are normally published were not published this month. Additional information is available at <https://www.bls.gov/covid19/effects-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-consumer-price-index.htm>.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 89 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 28 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 87 urban areas across the country from about 6,000 housing units and approximately 24,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the *BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index*, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater

volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.

The Urban Alaska area covered in this release consists of Anchorage and Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the State of Alaska.

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; Federal Relay Service: 1-800-877-8339.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2020	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jun. 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2020
Expenditure category						
All items	222.909	-	225.245	-3.8	1.0	-
All items (1967=100)	594.976	-	601.210	-	-	-
Food and beverages	224.076	-	228.063	5.4	1.8	-
Food	230.928	-	236.142	6.3	2.3	-
Food at home	228.182	236.584	234.738	8.4	2.9	-0.8
Cereals and bakery products	227.953	-	236.592	3.1	3.8	-
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs	206.836	-	235.378	17.4	13.8	-
Dairy and related products	231.062	-	232.260	15.1	0.5	-
Fruits and vegetables	354.124	-	356.703	5.6	0.7	-
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials(1)	159.295	-	151.885	-0.3	-4.7	-
Other food at home	193.379	-	192.906	7.3	-0.2	-
Food away from home	232.452	-	235.379	2.7	1.3	-
Alcoholic beverages	157.298	-	151.591	-4.3	-3.6	-
Housing	204.959	-	204.541	-7.0	-0.2	-
Shelter	203.244	202.696	202.944	-8.4	-0.1	0.1
Rent of primary residence(2)	199.045	198.754	198.700	-1.2	-0.2	0.0
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(2)	205.210	204.411	204.173	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(2)	205.210	204.411	204.173	-1.0	-0.5	-0.1
Fuels and utilities	344.631	-	344.526	-4.9	0.0	-
Household energy	356.183	355.944	355.994	-6.8	-0.1	0.0
Energy services	396.980	396.980	396.980	-6.8	0.0	0.0
Electricity	333.116	333.116	333.116	-14.7	0.0	0.0
Utility (piped) gas service	483.350	483.350	483.350	5.3	0.0	0.0
Household furnishings and operations	136.476	-	135.303	3.1	-0.9	-
Apparel	138.657	-	140.306	-7.7	1.2	-
Transportation	198.860	-	206.323	-11.2	3.8	-
Private transportation	206.871	-	214.264	-11.9	3.6	-
New and used motor vehicles(3)	107.221	-	-	-	-	-
New vehicles(1)	249.726	-	-	-	-	-
Used cars and trucks(1)	260.239	-	255.927	-3.3	-1.7	-
Motor fuel	163.391	162.019	195.060	-26.2	19.4	20.4
Gasoline (all types)	163.589	162.264	196.338	-26.1	20.0	21.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4)	156.344	154.662	188.111	-26.7	20.3	21.6
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5)	162.960	159.851	191.517	-24.7	17.5	19.8
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4)	173.756	175.403	206.439	-22.9	18.8	17.7
Motor vehicle insurance(1)	761.312	-	759.741	-24.6	-0.2	-
Medical care	630.835	-	654.672	5.9	3.8	-
Recreation(3)	128.250	-	126.470	-0.3	-1.4	-
Education and communication(3)	112.952	-	113.493	0.0	0.5	-
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(1) ..	747.792	-	753.879	3.6	0.8	-
Other goods and services	362.854	-	366.174	1.6	0.9	-
Commodity and service group						
All items	222.909	-	225.245	-3.8	1.0	-
Commodities	179.473	-	182.459	-2.1	1.7	-
Commodities less food & beverages	156.764	-	159.246	-6.5	1.6	-
Nondurables less food & beverages	190.069	-	197.873	-9.1	4.1	-
Durables	126.391	-	125.260	-3.7	-0.9	-
Services	260.347	-	262.036	-4.9	0.6	-

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods Urban Alaska (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Apr. 2020	May 2020	Jun. 2020	Jun. 2019	Apr. 2020	May 2020
Special aggregate indexes						
All items less medical care	208.840	-	210.490	-4.6	0.8	-
All items less shelter.....	230.757	-	234.494	-1.6	1.6	-
Commodities less food	157.225	-	159.274	-6.5	1.3	-
Nondurables	208.938	-	214.674	-1.3	2.7	-
Nondurables less food.....	188.661	-	194.909	-8.7	3.3	-
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	353.877	-	359.338	-0.9	1.5	-
Services less medical care services.....	238.849	-	239.180	-6.2	0.1	-
Energy	244.045	243.138	262.636	-16.6	7.6	8.0
All items less energy	222.045	-	223.419	-2.8	0.6	-
All items less food and energy	220.842	-	221.528	-4.3	0.3	-

Footnotes

(1) Indexes on a December 1978=100 base.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

- Data not available

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date.